

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 DRC-01

OMB-01 L-02 /054 W

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O 110732Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5842

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5989

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 198225

1. CHARGE SAW FONMIN KIM DONG-JO MORNING SEPT 11 AND EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN CONVEYING USG POSITION AS STATED PARA FOUR REFTEL. VICE FONMIN LHO SHIN-YONG WAS ALSO PRESENT. FONMIN WAS IN AN AGGRIEVED AND DEFENSIVE MOOD AND, WHEN HE DISCERNED DIRECTION OF CHARGE'S APPROACH, ATTEMPTED DIVERT CONVERSATION BY EXPOUNDING ON JUSTICE OF KOREAN POSITION.

2. FONMIN CONFIRMED THAT DESPITE JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO SEND ENVOY WITH LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRES PARK, ROKG WAS STILL DISSATISFIED WITH JAPANESE POSITION REGARDING ADMISSION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND CHOSEN SOREN IN LETTER. ON QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY, HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT ROKG HAD TO HAVE STATEMENT INDICATING JAPANESE ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOME PART OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. DURING ENSUING DISCUSSION HE AND VICE FONMIN TOYED WITH PHRASEOLOGY WHICH WOULD HAVE JAPANESE EXPRESS
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SINCERE CONDOLENCES FOR TRAGIC DEATH OF MADAME PARK,

DEEP REGRET FOR FACT THAT ATTEMPT HAD BEEN PLANNED IN JAPAN, AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FACT THAT ASSASSIN HAD TRAVELLED ON JAPANESE PASSPORT AND HAD USED STOLEN JAPANESE WEAPON.

3. CONVERSATION INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT REFERENCE TO CHOSEN SOREN REMAINS REAL STICKING POINT. FONMIN WAS NOT AWARE THAT FONMIN KIMURA HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR KIM IN TOKYO THAT JAPANESE LETTER WOULD SAY GOJ "WILL DO ITS BEST TO PREVENT AND EXERCISE CONTROL OVER TERRORIST ACTS WITHIN JAPAN PREJUDICING ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS." VERSION WITH WHICH HE HAD BEEN DEALING APPARENTLY OMITTED LAST PHRASE AND HE SHOWED INTEREST IN DEVELOPING SOME FORMULATION WHICH MIGHT EXPAND ON THAT LANGUAGE. HE REMAINED ADAMANT, HOWEVER, THAT CHOSEN SOREN MUST BE NAMED IN LETTER.

4. FONMIN AGAIN URGED THAT US ATTEMPT PERSUADE JAPANESE TO MEET ROK POSITION. HE SAID HE MUST POSTPONE VISIT TO WASHINGTON UNTIL VERY LAST MOMENT AND WOULD NOT THEREFORE BE ABLE TO KEEP APPOINTMENT WITH SECSTATE SCHEDULED FOR NOON SEPT 13. HE SAID THAT IF SATISFACTION NOT RECEIVED FROM JAPAN BY TIME PRIMIN TANAKA DEPARTS, ROKG WOULD RELEASE ULTIMATUM DESCRIBED PARA FOUR SEOUL 5923. ALONG WITH COMPLETE HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS. IF ULTIMATUM WERE RELEASED, ROKG WOULD ALSO RECALL ITS AMBASSADOR AND FONMIN WOULD TENDER HIS RESIGNATION.

5. IN RESPONSE CHARGE'S LAST EFFORT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT USG FELT JAPANESE HAD TAKEN ESSENTIAL STEP AND THAT KOREA'S BASIC DEMANDS HAVE BEEN MET, FONMIN SAID, TO EMPHASIZE TONE OF THAT DISCUSSION, THAT IN DISCUSSION WITH PRES PARK REGARDING JAPANESE POSITION ON DISPATCH OF ENVOY AND CONTENTS OF LETTER, IT WAS AGREED THAT JAPAN HAD OFFERED TO "SEND US A BRIDEGROOM WITHOUT A PENIS."

6. JAPANESE HAD NOT BEEN HEARD FROM AS OF NOON SEPT 11 AND FONMIN WAS OBVIOUSLY RESTIVE.

7. CHARGE HAS JUST BEEN CALLED IN TO SEE FONMIN AGAIN.
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WILL REPORT RESULTS SOONEST.
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